Marine Acquarium and Research Centre at Digha

2272. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken to set up a Marine Acquarium com-Research Centre at Digha, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the progress in this regard; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to expedite the progress of its construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The project consists of a Marine Acquarium and a Research Centre. The Research Centre has been completed and is already in operation. Construciton of building for the Marine Acqurium has also been completed. Contract for constructing and furnishing the Acquarium is to be executed in three stages. The first stage of construction has been completed. The second stage includes collection, transportation, acclimatisation and introduction of marine specimens and the third stage includes training of the designated Zoological Survey of India staff members for upkeep of the Acquarium. Steps have been taken to get the second and third stage expedited.

Merger of sick fertilizer units with healthy units

2273. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to merge sick fertilizer units with healthy units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if these units are not taken over the fate of such units, unit-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) are the two fertilizer manufacturing Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The option of takeover of the units of these PSUs by any of the profit making fertilizer undertakings was explored by the Government. Because of the prior commitments of these undertakings towards their own ongoing expansion projects and joint ventures for augmenting the fertilizer production capacity, no such proposal could materialise.

(d) In order to restore the financial health of FCI and HFC, the Government had approved, in principal, revival packages in April, 1995 which envisaged the revamp of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI; and Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup units of HFC, entailing of a fresh invetsment of Rs. 2201.13 crore at 1994 price levels, apart from capital restucturing and financial reliefs to the undertakings. The funding arrangement for these packages could not be tied up. An expert Group was thereafter constituted to reformulate the revival packages. The Group appointed a consultancy organisation to undertake an independent appraisal of the technical viability of the revival packages from the standpoint of funding by the Financial Institutions. The consultancy organisation has since submitted its report, based on which the Group would reformulate the revival packages. The final decision on the implementation of the reformulated revival packages would depend upon the tie up of funding arrangements and outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi judicial authority.

ग्रामीण कार्यात्मक साक्षरता कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत साक्षरता प्राप्त किया जाना

2274. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पुनर्गठित ग्रामीण कार्यात्मक साक्षरता कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत वर्ष 1996 और 1997 के दौरान कितने लोगों को साक्षर बनाये जाने का अनुमान है;